

## Message Text

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ACTION SAB-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /044 W

----- 087918

O 122140Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5424

INFO USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

GOVERNOR PANCANAL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6269

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER FROM BELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: U.S. NEGOTIATING  
OFFER CLARIFIED.

I.

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 6 FROM THE NEGOTIATORS APPLICABLE TO  
THE SEPTEMBER 1975 ROUND (SECOND STAGE).

II.

A. THE DEPUTY NEGOTIATOR-LEVEL TALKS SEPTEMBER 27-  
OCTOBER 12 DESIGNED TO "CLARIFY" THE UNITED STATES OFFER  
OF SEPTEMBER 5 WERE USEFUL.

B. ON POINT AFTER POINT, PANAMA HAD UNDERSTOOD NEITHER  
THE LANGUAGE NOR THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE OFFER.

C. ON A NUMBER OF POINTS, BECAUSE OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING,  
THE PANAMANIAN PERCEIVED--IN THEIR WORDS--"A MORE  
POSITIVE UNITED STATES APPROACH THAN WE HAD IMAGINED".

D. ONE INDICATOR OF THEIR REACTION TO THE "CLARIFICA-  
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TION" PRESENTATION BY THE UNITED STATES TEAM WAS THEIR

STATEMENT THAT THEY "WISHED THE STUDENTS COULD HAVE  
HEARD IT".

III.

A. HOW WE PROCEED FROM HERE IS UNCLEAR. THE PRESENTA-  
TION THREW TORRIJOS' TREATY "TEAM" INTO SOME DISARRAY.  
OPINIONS ARE NOW DIVIDED ON HOW TO ASSESS, THEN RESPOND  
TO, OUR OFFER. POWER PLAYS ARE RESULTING.

B. PANAMA SURELY WILL GIVE US A COUNTEROFFER. BUT WE  
CANNOT NOW PREDICT ITS NATURE--THAT IS, WHETHER IT WILL  
SIMPLY REPEAT PAST POSITIONS OR INCORPORATE SOME IMPROVE-  
MENT OVER THEM. NOR CAN WE PREDICT WHEN, WHERE AND BY  
WHOM IT WILL BE PRESENTED. WE HAVE ASSURED MEMBERS OF  
TORRIJOS' TEAM THAT THERE IS NO HURRY; THAT WE ARE AT  
THEIR DISPOSITION RESPECTING ARRANGEMENTS; AND THAT WE  
ARE ENTIRELY READY TO BEGIN THE BARGAINING.

C. THEY ARE ALL SCARED OF BARGAINING, OF COURSE, AND  
THAT INTENSIFIES THEIR DISARRAY.

D. IN ANY CASE, THE BALL IS NOW SQUARELY IN PANAMA'S  
COURT.  
JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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